CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505
OFFICE OF
THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

14 April 1965

Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr.
Associate Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Since our meeting with General McKee on 28 January 1965, I have been giving careful consideration to means of implementing the NASA offer to make its unique technical expertise available to CIA. I have discussed this at some length with the senior officers of the Scientific and Technical Directorate here and explained it in light of our varied experience with consulting and advisory groups. A concrete proposal for implementing your offer is described below.

As we discussed before, a consultive panel structure for separate intelligence topics seems optimum. We would see these panels as groups of six to 10 senior technical people drawn from the relevant centers of NASA who would make a solid commitment of time and energy to this venture for no less than two years. To ensure access to all relevant intelligence, we are prepared to treat these individuals as CIA consultants and to undertake to provide them with the appropriate clearances. For our part, we would provide a senior CIA officer, personally qualified in the technology covered by the panel, who would stimulate and support the group. In general, we would expect these panels to meet twice a year for several days and render a written report of their findings. We suggest that for the most part the panels meet at NASA centers concerned with the technologies involved, and we will undertake to support such sessions with appropriate briefings and intelligence data.

We have identified five major intelligence problems to which NASA experience could make a significant contribution, and these are described briefly below.

(1) Manned Space Flight:

This panel would cover both orbital and lunar manned space flight. Houston is presumably the center of gravity of this activity. Perhaps this group would be the exception to the stern rule of semiannual meetings, preferring instead to meet six to eight weeks after each significant manned shot.

(2) Launch Vehicles:

This group would deal both with boosters and upper stages, and would presumably draw heavily on the Marshall Center. We understand that there is now a full-time intelligence analysis group working at Huntsville under NASA sponsorship which could contribute to the periodic meetings of this panel. We would propose to clear such a group for access to special materials since there is substantial information from sensitive sources bearing on this subject. There is a sizeable secure facility at Huntsville for storage of special materials. We imagine that the Marshall Center would represent a natural focus for this subject, drawing membership from other centers as necessary.

(3) Launch and Test Facilities:

We would imagine that this group would be recruited from Marshall, Kennedy and elsewhere, meeting at least twice a year at one of these centers. The basic input data is sensitive and would require special clearances for careful study of relevant material.

(4) Scientific and Technical Satellites:

We presume that this group would be drawn primarily from Goddard and Headquarters and could easily meet in Washington. It could function at the Secret level, so that if you wish to include university scientific collaborators, it would not prove awkward.

(5) Lunar and Planetary Probes:

This is rather a special situation in that most of this NASA work is done at the Cal Tech Jet Propulsion Laboratory and because they already have a full-time intelligence analytical program (GALAXY) focused on this and similar problems. Rather than create a new panel, we would propose simply to sit down two or more times each year and have a thorough review of this whole subject with JPL. It may be necessary to make additional data available to that group but we can make that decision as things proceed.

This briefly is our thinking on the proposal you have made. We are enthusiastic and believe that we have found a practical way to set it in motion and ensure its momentum. When you have examined this plan and nominated the appropriate individuals from NASA, let us discuss it again and then move toward early implementation. I shall look forward to your reaction.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

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Albert D. Wheelon
Deputy Director

cc: DCI
DDCI
General McKee, NASA

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